

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-30, 32-36, and 39-73 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 16, 32, 33, 39, 40, and 62 being the independent claims. Claims 31, 37, and 38 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 32, 33, 34, and 36 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Applicants acknowledge that claims 1-30 and 39-73 have been allowed. Claims 32 and 33 are considered to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 31 and 34-38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,810,383 ("the Loveland patent"). Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, and in order to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicants have cancelled claims 31, 37, and 38. Further, allowable dependent claims 32 and 33 have been rewritten in independent form, as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 34 and 36, formerly dependent from claim 31, have been amended to depend from allowable claim 33. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection of the claims.

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and passage to issue of the application are requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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